

CLAIMS

1. A step ladder comprising
a frame including a front leg and a rear leg coupled to the front leg for
movement relative to the front leg between an opened position and a collapsed
5 position,
a handle,
a pivot support mount configured to support the handle for pivotable
movement on the front leg about a pivot axis,
a retainer member coupled to the handle to move therewith about the
10 pivot axis and arranged to trap a portion of the rear leg between the pivot support
mount and the retainer member upon movement of the handle to a predetermined
position relative to the rear leg to lock the front leg to the rear leg when the front and
rear legs are in the collapsed position, and
a guide coupled to the pivot support mount and configured to engage
15 the rear leg and maintain the rear leg in alignment with the front leg when the frame is
in the collapsed position.
2. The step ladder of claim 1, further comprising an alignment tab
coupled to the rear leg configured to engage a bottom surface of the front leg when
20 the frame is in the collapsed position.
3. The step ladder of claim 2, further comprising an anchor mount
coupled to the alignment tab and configured to engage a portion of the pivot support
mount when the frame is in the collapsed position.
25
4. The step ladder of claim 2, wherein the guide of the pivot
support mount is a first guide and the pivot support mount includes a second guide
spaced-apart from the first guide, and wherein the alignment tab coupled to the rear
leg is positioned between the first and second guides of the pivot support mount when
30 the frame is in the collapsed position.

5. The step ladder of claim 2, further comprising an alignment bracket coupled to the rear leg and formed to include the alignment tab, the alignment bracket including a base having a top wall, a bottom wall, a first side wall coupled to the top wall and the bottom wall, and a second side wall coupled to the top wall, and
5 wherein the bottom wall, the top, bottom, first, and second side walls are formed to define an aperture configured to receive the rear leg therethrough and wherein the alignment tab is coupled to the base and is substantially in alignment with the bottom wall of the base.

10 6. A step ladder comprising
a frame including a front leg and a rear leg coupled to the front leg for movement relative to the front leg between an opened position and a collapsed position,
means for aligning the front leg and the rear leg when the frame is in
15 the collapsed position, and
a lock coupled to the front leg and configured to lock the rear leg to the front leg when the frame is in the collapsed position.

7. The step ladder of claim 6, wherein the aligning means includes
20 an alignment guide coupled to the front leg for engagement with a bottom surface of the rear leg and an alignment tab coupled to the rear leg for engagement with a bottom surface of the front leg when the step ladder is in the collapsed position.

8. The step ladder of claim 7, wherein the alignment guide
25 coupled to the front leg is a first alignment guide and wherein the aligning means further includes a second alignment guide coupled to the front leg and spaced-apart from the first alignment guide, and wherein the alignment tab coupled to the rear leg is positioned to lie between the first and second alignment guides coupled to the front leg when the step ladder is in the collapsed position.

30

9. The step ladder of claim 6, wherein the lock includes a handle, a pivot support mount configured to support the handle for pivotable movement on

the front leg about a pivot axis, and a retainer member coupled to the handle to move therewith about the pivot axis and arranged to trap a portion of the rear leg between the pivot support mount and the retainer member upon movement of the handle to a predetermined position relative to the rear leg to lock the front leg to the rear leg when
5 the front and rear legs are in the collapsed position.

10. A step ladder comprising
a frame including a front leg and a rear leg coupled to the front leg for movement relative to the front leg between an opened position and a collapsed
10 position,
a first aligner coupled to the front leg and configured to engage the rear leg when the frame is in the collapsed position, and
a second aligner coupled to the rear leg and configured to engage the front leg when the frame in the collapsed position, wherein the first aligner and the
15 second aligner cooperate with each other to position the front and rear legs in registry with each other in the collapsed position.

11. The step ladder of claim 10, further comprising a handle coupled to the front leg for pivotable movement relative to the front leg about a pivot
20 axis and a retainer member coupled to the handle to move therewith about the pivot axis and arranged to trap a portion of the rear leg between the rear leg and the retainer member upon movement of the handle to a predetermined position relative to the rear leg to lock the front leg to the rear leg when the legs are in the collapsed position.

25 12. The step ladder of claim 11, wherein the handle is coupled to the first aligner.

13. The step ladder of claim 10, further comprising a third aligner coupled to the front leg, spaced-apart from the first aligner, and configured cooperate
30 with the first aligner to engage the rear leg when the frame is in the collapsed position.

14. The step ladder of claim 13, wherein the second aligner is positioned to lie between the first and third aligners when the frame is in the collapsed position.

5 15. The step ladder of claim 10, wherein the first aligner engages a bottom wall of the rear leg when the frame is in the collapsed position and the second aligner engages a bottom wall of the front leg when the frame is in the collapsed position.

10 16. The step ladder of claim 15, wherein the first aligner is substantially parallel to the bottom wall of front leg and the second aligner is substantially parallel to the bottom wall of the rear leg.

15 17. The step ladder of claim 10, further comprising a handle coupled to the first aligner and mounted for pivotable movement about a pivot axis relative to the first aligner and an anchor mount coupled to the second aligner, the handle being formed to pivot between an unlocked position disengaged from the anchor mount and a locked position engaged with the anchor mount to retain the rear leg in a locked position relative to the front leg when the frame is in the collapsed
20 position.